

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, according to press reports, the President has invoked executive privilege to avoid explaining some of his actions in the White House. And for the record, neither George Bush nor Ronald Reagan ever invoked executive privilege during their tenure in the White House.

If the President is allowed to use executive privilege regarding current events, I can only wonder what other ways would he use executive privilege. Would he cite executive privilege to avoid explaining his plans to spend the surplus? When people ask him his real thoughts about cutting taxes, will he simply say executive privilege? And when it comes to his opposition to education savings accounts, the President could cite executive privilege. It is better than admitting he is a pawn of the teachers' unions.

Mr. Speaker I urge the President to rethink his use of executive privilege. It sets a terrible precedent.

DEMOCRATS OFFER REAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has scheduled a sham campaign finance reform bill for consideration this week. The Republican bill would not achieve reform even if it passed. But the Republicans have included a poison pill, an antilabor provision, just to make sure that the bill does not pass.

The GOP campaign finance charade would allow wealthy individuals to contribute more money. It would make it more difficult for workers to organize and for the National Labor Relations Board to stop employers from violating labor laws.

Democrats, on the other hand, will offer a substitute bill, essentially the McCain-Feingold legislation that includes real reform, including a ban on soft money. Democrats offer real reform that gives average working families an equal voice in the political system and limits the influence of wealthy special interests in our political process.

REALLY PUT SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the President for saying let us put Social Security first. I would like to compliment Senator MOYNIHAN for moving the solutions of this issue to the front burner. I would like to invite my col-

leagues to really put Social Security first by co-sponsoring a bill with me today.

The bill that I will be introducing accomplishes two major objectives. Number one, it provides that the money that we are borrowing from the Social Security trust fund this next year be marketable certificates. Instead of the nonmarketable IOUs, they would be marketable so we could, in effect, take it around the corner to the local bank anytime the Trust Fund needed that money for paying benefits.

The other provision takes some of the surplus money and allows younger workers on a ten year pilot to invest some of that surplus money in their own 401(k)—Thrift savings-type retirement accounts. That will help in the long term to keep Social Security solvent and let these workers accrue more wealth than they would have under the current system.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to look at this bill and consider co-sponsorship.

CONGRESS BETTER START DOING SOMETHING ABOUT JOBS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, every day the American people are told how great the economy is. I do not buy it. Let us check the scoreboard. In 1995 900,000 Americans filed for bankruptcy. In 1996 1,100,000 filed for bankruptcy. And last year 1,400,000-plus filed for bankruptcy. Total bustout "morgueville," belly up. A 20 percent increase in one year.

What is worse, our kids are moving to Mexico to find work. They cannot find it around here. Take Boeing, for example, please. They laid off 18,000 workers since December. What is next, Congress? Will we be told that El Nino is good for the economy?

Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I think Congress better start doing something about jobs in America.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS' MOST DREADED DAY: APRIL 15

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the countdown is on. The tax clock is ticking. The nightmare of all nightmares to American workers: The tax man is coming.

That is right. Just 3 short weeks from today is the American taxpayers' most dreaded day: April 15. This day looms on the calendar each year as an ominous reminder of the crushing burden of the current Federal Tax Code. And while the IRS smiles behind closed doors, American workingmen and women are struggling to keep pace with an out-of-control Federal agency.

Over the next 21 days, taxpayers across this country will spend many sleepless nights and work countless hours in an attempt to figure out exactly how much of their hard-earned money must be sent to the government.

Heaven forbid the amount is off by a single cent, causing the taxpayer to face the unbridled wrath of the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to enact comprehensive tax reform. Sweet dreams, Mr. and Mrs. America.

AN ACCURATE COUNT OF EVERY AMERICAN IS ESSENTIAL IN THE YEAR 2000 CENSUS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to take the census in the year 2000, I want to take just a moment and underscore the importance of this issue. I also want to commend and congratulate the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for her leadership in keeping this issue before the American people.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember that every person must count; therefore, every effort must be made to count each and every citizen. We must be able to avoid the massive undercounts that we experienced during the past 2 decades, especially among poor and minority population groups. Just as we have been able to count the huge crowds that have turned out to greet the President on his visit to Africa, we must be able to count each and every citizen of this country.

Sampling is the most effective way, the most cost-conscious way, and the most assured way that will let us make it happen.

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TIME FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO COME CLEAN ABOUT FUND-RAISING EVENT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a little quiz. What is the difference between a community outreach event and a fund-raiser? We really would like to know. But maybe the Vice President can help us. How about this one? What is the difference between a finance-related event and a fund-raiser? Or how about the difference between an event for donor maintenance and a fund-raiser?

It is a time for the Vice President to come clean about the legal event, whatever euphemism we want to use to describe it, that was held on April 29, 1996, in California. Maybe the Vice President can help us with the problem we are having trying to understand how an event organized by Maria Hsia, who is a fund-raiser, which raised \$55,000, is not a fund-raiser?

Mr. Speaker, we do not need an MBA, we do not need a CPA, we do not need a Ph.D. in economics to see when a professional fund-raiser raises \$55,000 at a finance-related event we are talking about a fund-raiser.

Leaving the shredded documents and money laundering aside, what exactly is the Vice President's explanation about this sordid affair?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on House Oversight, of which I am a member, reported out a bill called campaign finance reform. What a sham. The bill, among other things, increases the limits that an individual could give a party from \$20,000 to \$60,000. Now, who does that benefit?

I put an amendment in at that time, and will again on the floor if the Committee on Rules allows, to strike section 1, which would ban labor unions and nonprofits from educating their people, their members, on what Federal legislation and otherwise they need to know about before they vote.

How is that campaign finance reform, campaign finance reform that the people want to take all the money out, \$600 million raised last year, soft money and hard money from the Republican Party, \$60 million from Democrats, Republicans and Democrats. Too much money.

American voters want to participate and they do not want to have to have \$75,000 to do so.

TIME TO SCRAP AMERICAN TAX CODE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, an American who goes abroad can brag about a lot of things about our country, but one thing he cannot brag about is the American Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, just look at what has happened over the last 75 years. Back in 1913, the Tax Code was 14 pages. Now it is 3,500 pages. From 14 pages to 3,500 pages. That is not progress in my book. The Tax Code is 3,500 pages of incomprehensible regulations, exemptions, loopholes and other absurdities just to figure out how much we, as citizens, owe Uncle Sam.

I suspect that an American who goes abroad will have a long list of things to be proud of, but that list will not include our Tax Code. The Tax Code is not logical. It is virtually incomprehensible and it is not fair. It is time to scrap the Tax Code in favor of a simple, low tax rate that will be the envy of the world.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM IN HOUSTON

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, the owners of the National Football League voted Monday to provide Cleveland with an expansion franchise, the 31st NFL team. The Cleveland team will be known as the Browns and will begin playing in 1999.

Congratulations to Cleveland and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES); they are finally going to get a football team. Last year the gentleman from Ohio introduced H.R. 2699 after losing their professional football team. He wanted to protect cities from losing their professional sports teams. I co-sponsored this bill.

Sports are a way in which people identify with their hometown and take pride in their hometown. As a Member of Congress from Houston, we also lost our team last year. When we think of Houston, we think of oil. We think maybe of the Houston Oilers. Do we really think of the Tennessee Oilers?

Houston is the fourth largest city. There should be a professional football team in Houston. I hope the NFL owners will even the number to number 32 and approve an expansion team to Houston.

Again, congratulations to Cleveland. Hopefully, with this example of an expansion franchise, we might just see another football team in Houston again soon.

TIME FOR AMERICA TO CRY OUT AND PRAY FOR HER CHILDREN

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to weep and mourn. It is time for America to cry out for her children. "A voice was heard," as Jeremiah said in the Old Testament, "in Ra'mah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children because they were no more."

Mr. Speaker, Jonesboro, Arkansas, is the third small community in recent months to experience a tragedy of wholesale slaughter where children are killing children. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to cry out and pray for her children.

Every day almost 3,000 teenage girls get pregnant, over 1,000 teenage girls have abortions, over 4,200 teenagers contract a sexually transmitted disease, 135,000 children carry guns or other weapons to school, 10 children are killed by guns, 6 teenagers commit suicide, and 211 children are convicted of drug use, every single day.

It is time for all of us who call ourselves Americans and love our children to be outraged, outraged at a morally

corrupt culture that is alien to every tried and tested moral structure that traditionally has undergirded our Nation.

NATIONAL DO-NOTHING DAY ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, without a doubt, this Congress today can go down in history as the biggest do-nothing Congress in memory. It has done less work on this floor in 3 months than the ordinary American would do in 3 weeks. Indeed, if we really think about all the important issues that have been taken up here, this Congress could have met for 3 days and gone home.

Having achieved the ability to do nothing better than anyone else noticed in this country, this Gingrich Congress will tomorrow declare "National Do-Nothing Day" on campaign finance reform. I see for years they have been promising to do something to fix the corrupting influence of campaign dollars, and tomorrow they will devote a couple of hours to talking about it and then doing nothing. They have cut off any real debate on proposals, not only of Democrats, but some of the Republicans who came forward with specific proposals to fix this perverted, broken system.

This Gingrich Congress defends doing it the same old way to let the tobacco companies come in here and dump billions of dollars into this corrupt system.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO CUT MORE SPENDING, CUT MORE WASTE, ELIMINATE MORE BUREAUCRACY

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the only outrages bigger than those coming out of the West Wing of the White House are those coming out of the left wing of the White House. Just listen to their latest warning about letting people keep a little more of their own money.

The White House, only 2 years after calling Republicans extremist for wanting to balance the budget and cut taxes at the same time, now thinks that the tax cuts would be dangerous, irresponsible, and bad policy. This is the same White House that has proposed billions and billions of dollars in new spending programs in their latest budget.

Can anyone please tell me why it is that multibillion dollars of new spending programs will not endanger the balanced budget, but tax cuts will? Can anyone please explain to me why Congress should not cut more spending, cut more waste, eliminate more bureaucracy so that American families might be able to keep more of their own money?